

for Brawley Steel, Wilson Steel, Bechtel Power Corp., and finally Saafco Inc. In addition, he taught the Local 229 Ironworkers Apprenticeship Classes for 18 years, and served as Local 229 Trustee, Executive Board Member, JATC Committee Chairman, Vice President, President and Business Representative. He was the Building and Construction Trades Delegate for 16 years and the San Diego and Imperial Labor Council Delegate for 12 years. For 18 years, he was one of three delegates from Local 229 to the District Council of Iron Workers of the State of California and Vicinity, and Contract Negotiator until he retired in May 2002.

Charley has been a member of Johns for 18 years, working to help the Leukemia Society and raising money for medical research. He makes his home in Fletcher Hills with his wife, Sue, and shares in the activities of their 10 grandchildren. Sue and Charley are active members of the San Diego County Orchid Society and the San Diego Horticultural Society, and he has written the monthly orchid column in the California Garden Magazine for 30 years.

Charles R. Fouquette exemplifies the high values, standards, and principles of the late John S. Lyons. I offer my congratulations to him on his recognition as the 2003 Johns "Fellowship Award winner."

INTRODUCING THE SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST REPEAL ACT OF 2003

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will allow our nation's seniors to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Many seniors prefer to remain active in their retirement, even though they may have chosen to leave their career jobs. Some seniors find second careers later in life which enrich their lives and supplement their income.

Unfortunately, the Social Security Earnings Test prohibited these individuals from receiving full Social Security benefits if their incomes exceeded a certain amount. The earnings test was especially unfair for seniors who relied on that additional income to supplement their Social Security checks, because they would, in effect, lose half of their Social Security benefit.

Recognizing the unfairness of this situation, the Congress passed, and on April 7, 2000, President Clinton signed H.R. 5, the Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act. This law eliminated the Social Security earnings test for recipients between the "full retirement age" (currently age 65 and eight months) and age 70.

While this law was a great victory for seniors who chose to work once they reached retirement age, it does not eliminate the earnings test for seniors who choose to retire early at age 62. These individuals, who might also rely on employment income to supplement their Social Security checks, are simply out of luck.

This situation unfairly penalizes many seniors who need to continue to work after they reach retirement age. The Bureau of Labor Services compiled an experimental Consumer

Price Index for the elderly, which found that the prices of goods bought by the general public rose by 66.5 percent, while it rose by 72.6 percent for seniors. This difference of over six percent is significant for someone living on a fixed income, as most seniors do. By penalizing individuals who work in addition to receiving Social Security benefits, we are hurting those most in need of assistance. Seniors should not be forced to choose between their Social Security benefits and earned income.

Additionally, forcing seniors to leave the workforce early signifies a valuable loss to our country in terms of skilled and experienced workers. More than ever America is in need of skilled workers. We should be encouraging these individuals to continue contributing to our economy through their tax dollars, and the additional goods they can consume thanks to their added income.

That is why I am introducing the Social Security Earnings Test Repeal Act of 2003. This legislation would amend title II of the Social Security Act by removing the limitation on the amount of outside income which an individual may earn while receiving benefits under such title.

Social Security is a right earned by workers through their hard work. The Social Security Earnings Test Repeal Act of 2003 will allow retirees to rejoin the workforce without the fear of a loss of benefits. We have no right to forbid or difficult someone's desire to work. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JAMES GEORGE LEATHERS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness regarding the recent passing of a leader in our community, James George Leathers.

Born in San Francisco on September 4, 1918, Jim passed away on Monday, September 1, 2003, with his wife Dorothy Worth Leathers and his family by his side in Woodland, California. Jim graduated from the University of California at Davis in 1939. After successfully beginning both their farming operation and their family, Jim and Dorothy built their dream home in Woodland in 1950, planted their garden and joined the community. Jim and Dorothy had 5 sons and 1 daughter and were blessed with 20 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Jim was loved in Woodland for his unstinting community dedication. His service encompassed youth activities, both sports and scouting and included the chairmanship of the Woodland Memorial Hospital Foundation board. He dedicated himself to the agricultural community as well and was instrumental in forming the Farmers Rice Cooperative and the California Rice Research Committee. In 1968 he was named the Agriculture Businessman of the Year for Yolo County and later served for 5 years on the California Air Resources Board during the Jerry Brown administration.

Mr. Speaker, Jim's generosity and example of service inspires us all and it is appropriate

that we celebrate and honor his life. He will be missed in our community but his dedication to others and his life example will never be forgotten.

HONORING JOAN MCCAFFERTY KUPERSMITH

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joan Anne McCaffery Kupersmith of Wilton, Connecticut, who will be feted at Patsy's Restaurant in New York City on Sept. 18, 2003, on the occasion of her fortieth birthday.

Mrs. Kupersmith was born in Teaneck, New Jersey on Sept. 18, 1963, and was raised with her five terrific siblings in Harrington Park, New Jersey. She is a graduate of Boston College and Harvard Law School. An accomplished attorney, Mrs. Kupersmith has chosen to represent children in the courts of her community, providing expert counsel as a court-appointed attorney for children who need and deserve sage support as they navigate our legal system.

Mrs. Kupersmith's work is made possible in part by the strong support of her husband, Ken, and her loving children, Ryan, Caroline and Nicholas. Public service is a tradition in the Kupersmith and McCaffery families, and I applaud Joan Anne's humanitarianism.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to acknowledge such a fine individual, and I am certain the entire House of Representatives joins me in extending our very best wishes to Joan Anne and her entire family at this festive time.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD GEBHARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of this Nation's most distinguished and dedicated Postmasters, Mr. Harold L. Gebhard. After 50 years of faithful service to our Nation, the past 28 years of which he has served the Northwest Florida communities through the United States Postal Service, Mr. Sutton deserves to be recognized as an outstanding public servant.

Mr. Gebhard began his devotion to our beloved Nation in 1952, when he enlisted in the United States Air Force. He continued with valor in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 and was awarded both a Bronze Star and a Vietnam Cross of Gallantry when he returned home. Mr. Gebhard served 22½ years in the armed services, achieving the rank of Chief Master Sgt., E-9.

In 1975, Mr. Gebhard came to our community and began as a mail handler in the Pensacola Mail Processing Plant. A short 5 years later, he was promoted Postmaster in McDavid, FL and in 1983; Mr. Gebhard was again promoted to Superintendent of Postal Operations in Cantonment, FL. For the past 8 years he has kept watch as Postmaster and continues his tenure there today. Over the